

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 remain in this application. Claims 6, 10, 12-20, 24-27, 31, 33, 38 and 39 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is in order, and an early and favorable first action on the merits is respectfully requested. However, in the event of any outstanding issues, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below in an effort to expedite prosecution.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,  
YOUNG & THOMPSON



---

Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

BC/sj

**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

☒ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure